

From: [Maria Martinez](#)
To: R6_DWH_Info@epa.gov
Subject: Fw: Odors in New Orleans -- Re: Potential air impacts of concern from Deepwater Horizon oil spill
Date: 05/31/2010 01:50 PM

Maria L. Martinez
Chief, Air Quality Analysis Section (PD-Q)
USEPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733
Telephone: 214-665-2230
Fax: 214-665-6762

----- Forwarded by Maria Martinez/R6/USEPA/US on 05/31/2010 01:49 PM -----

Re: Fw: Odors in New Orleans -- Re: Potential air impacts of concern
from Deepwater Horizon oil spill [Link](#)

Maria Martinez to: Carl Edlund 04/30/2010 09:57 AM

Cc: Craig Carroll, Patrick Garbart, Steve Vargo, Susan Spalding, Thomas Diggs, William Luthans, William Rhea

Carl,

Please see my related e-mail from a few minutes ago. We don't deal with handheld/realtime devices...enforcement does use these devices. OAQPS was not able to offer any assistance in this area.

Suggest that this question be shared with John Blevins. I have tried to reach their Air Enforcement staff but was unsuccessful.

Maria

From: Carl Edlund/R6/USEPA/US
To: Maria Martinez/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: William Luthans/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Steve Vargo/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Thomas Diggs/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Patrick Garbart/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, William Rhea/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Susan Spalding/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, William Rhea/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Craig Carroll/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/30/2010 09:51 AM
Subject: Fw: Odors in New Orleans -- Re: Potential air impacts of concern from Deepwater Horizon oil spill

Maria- your input in this area?

----- Forwarded by Carl Edlund/R6/USEPA/US on 04/30/2010 09:56 AM -----

Odors in New Orleans -- Re: Potential air impacts of concern from
Deepwater Horizon oil spill [Link](#)

Al Armendariz to: Bob Perciasepe, Dana Tulis, Sam Coleman, Carl Edlund 04/30/2010 06:29 AM

Stan Meiburg, Allyn Brooks-LaSure, Dana Tulis, Danny France, David Gray, Debbie Dietrich, Franklin Hill, Gilberto Irizarry, Gina McCarthy, gordon.scott, griffith.bryon, hitchcock.shane, hxfl, Janet Woodka, Cc: kemker.carol, Kenneth Lapierre, Kevin Teichman, Lawrence Starfield, neeley.doug, Paul Anastas, peyton.mike, quinones.antonio, Robert Safay, Sam Coleman, Seth Oster, Steve Page, terry.carl, wise.allison

[note: BB email might not be working in Louisiana. Having to rely on hotel and JIC connections, plus texting, IMs, and phone calls. I apologize if eventually multiple copies from last night sent.]

Thanks Stan.

Sam and Carl,

On the drive to the hotel last night, persistent calls into AM news radio from N.O. and all points south about odors.

We should prioritize reviewing our own new data and also the state's stationary air toxic data. Think about focusing on the volatile organics, especially those known to be odorous (aldehydes, aromatics, reduced sulfur compounds, ?).

Could be wise to compare levels from 2 weeks ago to levels starting yesterday to historic hourly averages this time of year.

Dana: if the odors are real (which it appears they are) given the limited quantity of oil to date, a worst case scenario paints a huge problem. Depending on what we see in the data, we'll need concrete health-based standards from ORD and OAQPS to compare with measured levels for accurate communication with the public.

Al

-----Bob Perciasepe/DC/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: Stan Meiburg/R4/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Bob Perciasepe/DC/USEPA/US
Date: 04/30/2010 05:25AM
cc: Al Armendariz/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Allyn Brooks-LaSure/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Dana Tulis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Danny France/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, David Gray/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Debbie Dietrich/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Franklin Hill/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, Gilberto Irizarry/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Gina McCarthy/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, gordon.scott@epa.gov, griffith.bryon@epa.gov, hitchcock.shane@epa.gov, hxfl@cdc.gov, Janet Woodka/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, kemker.carol@epa.gov, Kenneth Lapierre/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, Kevin Teichman/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Lawrence Starfield/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, neeley.doug@epa.gov, Paul Anastas/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, peyton.mike@epa.gov, quinones.antonio@epa.gov, Robert Safay/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, Sam Coleman/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Seth Oster/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Steve Page/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, terry.carl@epa.gov, wise.allison@epa.gov
Subject: Re: Potential air impacts of concern from Deepwater Horizon oil spill

Excellent points. There have been other reports of odors as well and the "spray" factor on windy beach day's is clearly a factor.

Bob Perciasepe
Deputy Administrator

(o) +1 202 564 4711
(c) +1 202 368 8193

Stan Meiburg---04/30/2010 01:11:39 AM---Colleagues: I just got off the phone with Bryon Griffith, Director of EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program,

From:

Stan Meiburg/R4/USEPA/US

To:

Dana Tulis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Gilberto Irizarry/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Debbie Dietrich, Franklin Hill, hitchcock.shane@epa.gov, Al Armendariz/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Lawrence Starfield/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Gina McCarthy/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Steve Page, Sam Coleman/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Janet Woodka/DC/USEPA/US, Paul Anastas/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, griffith.bryon@epa.gov, hxfl@cdc.gov, Seth Oster/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Bob Perciasepe, Allyn Brooks-LaSure/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Kevin Teichman

Cc:

terry.carl@epa.gov, wise.allison@epa.gov, gordon.scott@epa.gov, Kenneth Lapierre/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, kemker.carol@epa.gov, neeley.doug@epa.gov, peyton.mike@epa.gov, quinones.antonio@epa.gov, Danny France/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, David Gray, Robert Safay/R4/USEPA/US@EPA

Date:

04/30/2010 01:11 AM

Subject:

Potential air impacts of concern from Deepwater Horizon oil spill

Colleagues:

I just got off the phone with Bryon Griffith, Director of EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program, who pointed out to me a concern that I had not anticipated about aerosols from the oil spill as it approaches the tidal zone and landfall. Others have thought this through but I hadn't thought of the spill this way, so I wanted to share this with you and I apologize if this is redundant.

Weather conditions in the Gulf are highly unusual now, with strong, sustained 25 knot winds from the Southeast. As the oil spill approaches land (first the barrier islands in, for example, the Mississippi Sound and then into the Sound itself), Bryon reported that the wave action generated by these winds will have a tendency to produce aerosolization of the oil to a much greater degree than normal, both by the churning of the waves themselves and by the tendency of the wind to shear off the tops of waves. These conditions can produce inland irritation due to salt spray in normal times. Bryon compared the event we are facing now to a red tide, where such aerosolization can produce respiratory irritation from the red tide organisms.

Bryon reported that already, at Stennis Space Center where the Gulf Program is housed, they are detecting odors which he is confident come from the spill. He reports some concern in the Gulf Region (at least in Mississippi, where he is) that this may increase stress on respiratorily compromised persons (e.g., in hospitals) in the Region. It certainly does validate the desire in the air monitoring plan to increase the monitoring of VOCs as the plan discusses. Bryon was concerned that the potential for effects from this phenomenon had been understated in the response discussions to date.

In addition to continuing to monitor the weather it seemed to me, in thinking about this, that we should consider 1) expanded modeling of the potential extent of such aerosolization under these unusual circumstances; 2) consultation with our public health partners through the Area Command Center or other means to alert them to this possibility and discuss what public health messaging or advisories may be appropriate, and 3) accelerating the VOC monitoring as much as possible, and 4) seeking explicit authorization from the Coast Guard to cover the costs of such monitoring, whether done by us or by State/local government, as a reimburseable expense of the response.

Bryon, if I have missed or mischaracterized any of this, please don't hesitate to correct me!

Stan Meiburg